



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

County Counsel

At its meeting held January 13, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

The Emergency Medical Services Commission's recommendation to support the State ballot initiative sponsored by the Coalition to Preserve Emergency Care, to increase the surcharge on telephone calls made within California to fund 9-1-1 emergency dispatch, emergency rooms, trauma centers and emergency doctors; and approve the following related actions:

Support the ongoing State emergency services appropriation to protect funding for physician call panels (AB 1762);

Request the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency to request the State Department of Health Services to provide clarification on the monitoring process for nurse staffing ratios; and an opinion on Title 22 and potential conflicts with Federal law and Emergency Transfer And Labor Act, specifically as they relate to nurse staffing ratios;

Support legislation to develop additional nursing programs or to expand existing programs to educate more nurses in the State of California;

Request the EMS Agency to distribute copies of the Public Hearing transcript to the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation;

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Request the EMS Agency to work with the Department of Health Services, or any other agencies, to bring back recommendations on how best to organize a study process of the broader issues impacting the County EMS system; and

Convey to the Board that the implementation of the nurse staffing ratios may result in the closure of inpatient beds resulting in a backup in emergency departments and ultimately, a backup into the pre-hospital setting resulting in a deleterious impact to public safety.

On motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, by common consent, and there being no objection (Supervisor Molina being absent), the Board took the following actions:

1. Continued the Emergency Medical Services Commission's aforementioned recommendations to January 20, 2004; and
2. Instructed County Counsel to provide a report to the Board on the Commission's recommendations.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor

Chief Administrative Officer

Chair, Emergency Medical Services Commission

